

The Great I Am

I Am The Light Of The World

(Jn 8:12)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on "The Great I Am."
 - a. We began looking at Jesus who is "The Great I Am."
 - i. **Jn 8:58** "...Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."¹
 - b. We looked last week at Jesus being the "Bread of Life."
 - i. **Jn 6:35** "...I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
 - c. Today we are going to examine another "I am" statement from Jesus.
 - i. **Jn 8:12** "...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
3. Light vs Dark
 - a. Darkness has for thousands of years had an evil connotation.
 - i. God used darkness as a plague against Pharaoh, but notice what is said about the darkness.
 1. **Ex 10:21** "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt.""
 - ii. God used darkness as a sign of His displeasure with the Jews at Jesus' crucifixion.
 1. **Mt 27:45** "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour."
 - iii. Illustration:
 1. Brother Stapleton once told me that while he was in Africa there were cloudy nights where you could not see your hand right in front of your face and how eerie it was.
 - b. Light on the other hand has long been a source of comfort.
 - i. God used a pillar of fire as light during the night for the Israelites in the wilderness and a symbol of hope.
 1. **Ex 13:21** "And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night."
 2. **Ps 78:14** "In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light."
 - ii. God uses light as a sign of His pleasure with His people.
 1. **Ps 18:28** "For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness."
4. Ultimately God uses light as a representation of Himself and darkness a representation of sin.
 - a. **I Jn 1:5b** "...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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I. The World Without The Light

A. The pre-light of the earth

1. We have little told us concerning creation prior to light being made.
 - i. We know there was an earth that was without form.
 - ii. We know there was an earth with water.
 - iii. We know there was an earth covered in darkness.
 - a. **Gn 1:2** "The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."
2. We know God saw light as good.
 - i. He made light for daytime.
 - ii. He made light for nighttime.
 - a. **Gn 1:4-5** "And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.
 - b. **Gn 1:16-18** "And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17 And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good."

B. The post-light earth saw a different darkness fall on it

1. When Adam & Eve sinned darkness fell on the earth.
 - i. Man was separated from God and man could not get back to God.
 - a. **Ro 6:23a** "For the wages of sin is death..."
 - b. **Gn 2:16-17** "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'""
2. Think about it...man was utterly lost. Look at the depravity man often got to.
 - i. **Gn 6:5-6** "The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart."
 - ii. **Jg 21:25** "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
 - iii. **Mi 7:2** "The godly has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among mankind; they all lie in wait for blood, and each hunts the other with a net."

C. That was the world without the light

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II. The Light To The World

- A. It was prophesied that the Light would come to the world
 - 1. **Is 9:2, 6** "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone...6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
- B. The prophecies came true and the Light came to be in the world
 - 1. **Jn 1:1-3** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men."
- C. The Light was not accepted by the darkness
 - 1. **Jn 3:19** "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil."
- D. The Light did overcome the darkness
 - 1. **Jn 1:5** "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
 - 2. **Jn 16:33** "...I have overcome the world."

III. How Do We Stay In The Light?

- A. Christ is the only avenue to the Father
 - 1. **Jn 14:6** "...I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
- B. Christ must then be followed
 - 1. **Jn 8:12** "...I am the light of the world. **Whoever follows me** will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- C. Christ is followed when we obey His Word
 - 1. **I Jn 2:3-5** "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him"
- D. Obeying Christ should not be a burden
 - 1. **I Jn 5:3** "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."

CONCLUSION

- 1. Brothers and sisters The great I Am is the Light to the World let us go toward and stay consumed by this light that is eternal.
 - a. **Rv 21:23** "And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb."
- 2. Question:
 - a. Are you staying in the Light?
 - i. My hope is that you are but if you are not...

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3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**